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PATENT 60-1702

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Practitioner's Docket No.: 245_361

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Pierre Girard et al.

Ser. No.: 09/508,316

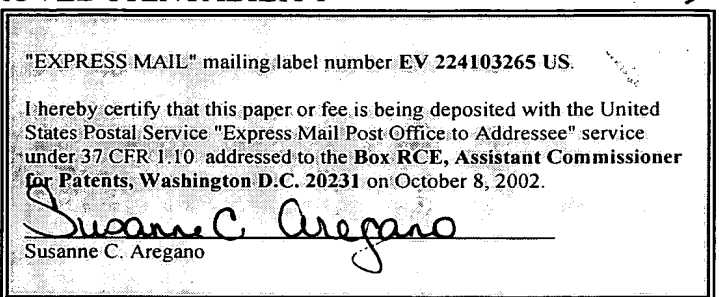
Art Unit: 1774

Filed: March 9, 2000

Examiner: Lawrence D. Ferguson

For: PAPER OR BOARD WITH IMPROVED PRINTABILITY

Box RCE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



RCE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action, Paper No. 11, dated April 11, 2002, please amend the above-captioned patent application without prejudice as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) At least one of a paper and a board consisting of a fibrous medium coated with at least one conventional surface coat [intended to be printed by gravure or flexographic printing], and including, between the fibrous medium and the conventional surface coat, an inner coat of a composition based on [specific pigments], said inner coat being deposited in an amount from one to five grams per square meter (1 to 5 g/m²),

wherein:

- the composition of the conventional surface coat does not contain silica;
- and the composition of the inner coat includes at least one specific pigment chosen from the group consisting of silica and precipitated calcium carbonate

(PCC).

4. (Twice Amended) A process for the manufacture of a paper or of a board, intended

to be printed by gravure or flexographic printing, which consists of the following steps:

- producing a fibrous medium from a paper suspension;